

CLAIM SUMMARY

Claim 1 (currently amended) 1. A spoke for a tensioned spoke wheel, said spoke comprising:

a shaft having first and second ends, a first segment of said shaft adjacent the first end having a given cross-sectional area, and a second segment of said shaft adjacent, and extending toward the second end from, said first shaft segment having a cross-sectional area less than the given cross-sectional area of the first segment, said first segment having a threaded portion and an unthreaded portion which is adjacent to said threaded portion and is between said threaded portion and said second end, wherein the cross sectional area of the spoke is sufficiently small that when the spoke is installed in a wheel under tension applied by a nipple or nut into which the spoke is threaded, said second segment is subject to rotation therewith when the nipple or nut is rotated to increase the spoke tension. and wherein the surface of a part of said unthreaded portion of said first segment is shaped to form at least two opposed, flat, torque transmitting surfaces.

2 and 3. (canceled)

4. (original) A spoke for a tensioned spoke wheel as claimed in claim 1 which, except for said flat, torque transmitting surfaces, is generally circular in cross section.

5. (original) A spoke for a tensioned spoke wheel as claimed in claim 1 which additionally has a third segment which is between said second segment and the second end of the spoke, wherein said third segment has a cross-sectional area greater than that of said second segment.

6. (original) A spoke for a tensioned spoke wheel as claimed in claim 5 which, except for said flat, torque transmitting surfaces, is generally circular in cross section.

7. (original) A spoke for a tensioned spoke wheel as claimed in claim 4 wherein the major diameter of the threaded portion of said first segment is greater than the diameter of said first segment of the spoke.

8. (original) A spoke for a tensioned spoke wheel as claimed in claim 6 wherein the major diameter of the threaded portion of said first segment is greater than the diameter of said first segment of the spoke.

9. (currently amended) A spoke for a tensioned spoke wheel, said spoke comprising:
a shaft having first and second ends, a first segment of said shaft adjacent the first end having a threaded portion and an unthreaded portion which is adjacent to said threaded portion and is between said threaded portion and said second end, and a second segment of said shaft adjacent, and extending toward the second end from, said first shaft segment,

wherein the surface of a part of said unthreaded portion of said first segment is shaped to form at least two opposed, flat, torque transmitting surfaces, said spoke, when installed in a tensioned spoke wheel with a nipple threaded onto the threaded portion of the first segment of said spoke, being subject to rotation therewith when the nipple is rotated, and the unthreaded portion of the first segment of the shaft has a sufficiently large cross-section, the shaped portion of the surface of the first segment is sufficiently close to the threaded portion thereof, or both the unthreaded portion of the first segment of the shaft has a sufficiently large cross-section, and the shaped portion of the surface of the first segment is sufficiently close to the threaded portion thereof, that preventing rotation of the shaped portion of the first segment surface prevents rotation of the spoke with the nipple.